

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board (“the Board”) held a meeting on May 9, 2005. The Board convened at the Office of Consumer Advocate at 2:00 p.m. Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss a legal matter. Motion seconded, and approved. Motion to come out of Closed Session at 2:10 p.m., seconded and approved. The Board voted that minutes of the Closed Session will not be made public until the Board votes to open them. The Board then reconvened in Hearing Room A at the Public Utilities Commission. The Public Meeting started at 2:14 p.m.

Present for the Board were:

Larry Kelly, Chair (arrived at 2:22 pm.)
Otis Perry, Vice Chair
Larry Ross
Ed Brueggemann
Rick Russman
Jeff MacGillivray
Dick Stonner
Ross Doerr

Present for the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) were:

Anne Ross, Consumer Advocate (arrived at 2:25 pm)
Kenneth Traum, Assistant Consumer Advocate
Rorie Hollenberg, Staff Attorney
Christina Martin, Legal Assistant

Otis convened the Public Meeting at 2:14 pm.

Agenda:

1. **Minutes of March meeting**

The Board discussed the scope of the content of its minutes and concurred that the minutes should only include summary of discussions that actually occur during a meeting. The minutes need not include items or information which the Board did not discuss. For example pages 2 through 6 of the minutes from last month include details about legislation which the Board did not discuss. Otis moved that the April 11, 2005 Minutes be approved noting expected future changes. Seconded and approved. Jeff and Dick abstained from the vote due to their absence at the last meeting.

2. **Legislation**

There was brief discussion on HB174, HB175, HB185, HB 602, SB128, and SB209.

Christina stated that HB174 has a hearing on May 10, 2005 at 3:00. Rick asked what specifically does this bill do? Ken explained the bill.

Larry R. stated that the HB175 bill is retained until SB128 is figured out.

Jeff stated that the language in HB185 should be “increasing” the incentives not “maximizing”. Rick asked what types of renewables are incorporated into this bill.

Larry K. explained any renewable.

Christina noted that HB602 is having a hearing on May 10, 2005 at 3:15.

Larry R. stated that the SB128 bill is retained for the summer to review the bill and the effects in combination with HB175.

Christina explained that the OCA will be staying involved in the SB209 bill to assure the consumers are protected in the final version of the bill.

3. **EAP**

The Board revisited the waiting-list issue and discussed generally program eligibility criteria (i.e., federal v. state), conservation and weatherization. The Board requested the following additional information: how much money is spent on conservation v. assistance; how much money goes to homeowners v. tenants; and how much money is spent on public v. private housing.

4. **VOIP Presentation**

Verizon’s Lisa Thorne and Kevin Shea gave a presentation on Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP). The presentation included the technical aspects of VOIP, the future of VOIP, who provides VOIP at what cost, and E911. A handout was provided.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Next meeting is to be held on June 6, 2005 at 2:00-4:00 p.m.